



Address at the Ratcliffe Incubator Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on May 22, 2018**





This speech was presented to attendees of the Ratcliffe Incubator Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held at the Academic Two Atrium at the Biscayne Bay Campus on May 22, 2018.

Good evening and thank you for joining us!

A very special thank you to the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation. Carole, we're so glad you could be here with us. We wouldn't be here today without your support.

I'd also like to thank: Brian Ellis, the Ratcliffe Foundation President; Tina Davenport, Ratcliffe Foundation Trustee; and Jim Clauson, Ratcliffe Foundation Trustee. And I'd also like to thank FIU's College of Communication, Architecture and the Arts Dean, Brian Schriener.

As you may know, we live in an age of rapid acceleration. New and emerging technologies are all around us. Artificial intelligence, automation, big data, and the Internet of Things have arrived. The future is already here and it is changing our lives and our work.

The McKinsey Global Institute recently looked at what the future of work will look like, especially in this age of automation. It's estimated that between 75 million and 375 million people around the world may need to change occupations and acquire new skills by 2030.

These numbers may seem shocking, but when we talk about automation, we must consider the challenges, as well as the opportunities, that it presents.

Automation opens up a future of work that allows us to be more creative and innovative. In fact, the very same McKinsey study estimates there will be job growth in creative occupations – such as artists, entertainers, painters and writers. Entrepreneurship is also another area of job growth. These are essential skills in the 21st knowledge economy!

There have been many advances in AI – especially in emotional or creative aspects. However, humans still hold a clear advantage, and that's what today is all about.

This new incubator is helping to ensure that Miami remains a city on the rise! It's allowing us to build a stronger, more innovative and creative economy for our community. It's nurturing our local entrepreneurial ecosystem, and it's producing the top talent our community needs to stay ahead of the change. In fact, this will be one of the most innovative arts entrepreneurship spaces to be housed at a public university in South Florida.

As you know, FIU is committed to innovation and entrepreneurship; it is an institutional priority. One of our strategic plan goals is to help produce more startups.

We want to become a haven to spur new inventions, discoveries and ideas and to harness our talent. Our Ratcliffe incubator is truly a stepping-stone for our students and our entire community.

Thank you, again, for joining us! I would now like to introduce Carole R. Ratcliffe from the Ratcliffe Foundation!